

Crime, Safety, and Security Briefing
Regional Security Office
U.S. Embassy Bishkek

I. Traffic Safety

The public transportation system in Bishkek consists of mostly taxis, marshrutka, and buses. The Embassy recommends that Americans do not use marshrutka or buses. If necessary use a taxi from a reliable company.

II. Crime Threat

INTL

Crime in Bishkek is a serious concern. Petty theft, purse snatching, and pickpockets are most common in areas such as bazaars, markets, and shopping centers. We recommend that passports be kept in a secure location and a photocopy be carried instead. Never leave possessions unattended. While violent crimes, such as armed robbery, are still relatively rare in Bishkek, we have had a number of violent attacks resulting in severe injuries. **These attacks usually occur after dark, and for this reason we highly recommend that you do not walk after dark. Do not resist theft attempts since this could result in serious injuries.**

III. Terrorism

INTL

Terrorism in the region is a serious concern for the Embassy. Extremist groups such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), a terrorist organization with links to al-Qaeda, have conducted terrorist attacks in Uzbekistan and may be planning terrorist acts targeting U.S. Government Facilities, Americans or American interests in the Kyrgyz Republic. U.S. citizens are urged to consider their safety and security while traveling in the Kyrgyz Republic. The U.S. Embassy in Bishkek maintains a heightened security posture. And request that while in Kyrgyz Republic, you should take security precautions at work, in places where westerners congregate, and places, such as markets and bazaars.

IV. Telephone/Fax/Internet Security

INTL

Like in any country, be aware that any non-encrypted communication, i.e. telephone, fax, commercial Internet and e-mail access, may be monitored. At no time should sensitive/proprietary information be discussed over the telephone or otherwise transmitted electronically (fax/internet).

V. Law Enforcement and Security

INTL

You are required to conform with contact reporting policies should you develop any relevant continuing relationships or encounter any other situations entailing a contact report. If you are a victim of a crime or have any encounters with local authorities, please contact RSO immediately.

VI. Access to Control Areas

INTL

The CAA is a (controlled access area,) is the only area where classified information may be processed or stored. Cleared Americans (with a blue badge) may enter (and/or escort others) into the CAA, though there are certain restrictions regulating who may be escorted in the CAA. Please check with RSO if you need to bring someone into the CAA who does not have a blue badge. Likewise, if you need to process classified or sensitive information, please check with RSO.

I have read and understand the preceding security information.

INTL

Name (Print)

Signature

Date

RSO Signature

Date